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PAPAL ACCEPTANCE OF MEDIATION ROLE ANNOUNCED

PY241419 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1355 GMT 24 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (TELAM)--It was announced through the public information secretariat shortly after 1045 today that his holiness has accepted the request submitted by the Argentine and Chilean governments for mediation by the Holy See. The communique states: "The presidential public information secretariat reports that His Holiness Pope John Paul II has accepted the petition which the governments of Argentina and Chile submitted to request the mediation of the Holy See with the objective of guiding them in the negotiations and aiding them in their search for a solution to the controversy which the two countries have over the southern region."

NEW LABOR CONFEDERATION INTERVENTOR DISCUSSES POST

PY240219 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2045 GMT 23 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)--Col Rolando Rojas, interventor of the General Labor Confederation [CGT], stated today that "the Argentine labor movement is an organized movement which has grown with the country and is experiencing the real situation in the country and working in accordance with the current situation." He added that "right now I am studying the general outlook, which is the handling of the organization and awaiting all reports so as to have a complete outlook of what is going on."

Regarding his future activity as head of the organization, he said: "I have no instructions so far. I expect to receive them during the next few days. In addition, all those guidelines are exclusive of the Labor Ministry. I only follow orders that might come from that ministry."

Asked whether he had received a request for a meeting from the national labor commission, he answered: "I have not received anything yet."

Colonel Rojas made these remarks in a telephone interview with Radio Excelsior.

COMMITTEE OF 25 DECLARES 'ALERT' ON ECONOMIC POLICY

PY242356 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2252 GMT 24 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (NA)--The Committee of 25 today decided to "declare the labor sector in a state of alert throughout the country."

The decision was adopted during a meeting of the committee, which also decided to reiterate its rejection of the official economic policy.

The statement, which was released at the conclusion of the meeting, indicates that the state of alert was declared in view of the concern shown by the secretaries of the labor unions regarding the salary situation and "increasing and acute inflation."

ADEPA OFFICIAL SEES THREAT TO PRESS FREEDOM

PY241315 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0132 GMT 24 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Salta, 23 Jan (NA)--The president of the Argentine Newspaper Owners' Association [ADEPA], Carlos Ovidio Lagos, stated here today that "the country's freedom of the press is seriously endangered by a number of accumulated events such as the arrest of journalists and the indefinite intervention in the activities of publications."

Lagos made these remarks during an exclusive interview with the local daily EL TRIBUNO. On the occasion he also discussed the case of Papel-Prensa, a joint state-private enterprise which has given rise to polemics due to the special manner in which the sale of its product is conducted. ADEPA's president stated that both his organization--which includes all the country's publications--and other similar entities agree that Argentina "must have its own paper factories." He stressed, however, that "we do not want this paper, extremely necessary for the printing of our newspapers, to be priced so high that it endangerr the very existence of Argentine publications, especially those published by small and medium-size enterprises."

IDB PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR LOAN DISCUSSIONS

PY221812 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] The president of the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] arrived in Buenos Aires this morning. Jose Antonio Ortiz Mena will hold talks with the authorities of the joint technical commission in charge of the Yacyreta-Apipe hydroelectric complex being built by Argentina and Paraguay, and with government authorities. He was interviewed by our reporter upon arrival at Ezeiza International Airport. The interview follows:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] The president of the IDB, Antonio Ortiz Mena, has just arrived for a visit to Argentina. Mr Ortiz Mena, are there many loans within the IDB in the amount such as the one granted for the Yacyreta program?

[Ortiz Mena] The largest loan we have granted until now is the one for Yacyreta, which totals $210 million.

[Reporter] What other projects is the IDB financing for Argentina?

[Ortiz Mena] We have various projects which we are now considering, which would total no less than $250 million for 1979.

[Reporter] Does this include the Yacyreta loan?

[Ortiz Mena] No, this would be in addition to the Yacyreta loan.

[Reporter] Mr Ortiz Mena, what are the possibilities that the IDB will finance Argentina's electrification project at this time?

[Ortiz Mena] I believe that the chances that we will finance the program for Argentina's electrical development are very good. This program includes the Yacyreta plant, which we will finance, and the Salto Grande project, which will soon begin operation. The country's electrification program continues to be carefully studied by the bank.

[Reporter] (?Alicura), for example?

[Ortiz Mena] If it is presented, the bank will consider it.

[Reporter] Mr Ortiz Mena, do you see the River Plate Basin as a possible source of food for the rest of the continent?

[Ortiz Mena] I believe that the River Plate Basin is one of the regions in the world with the greatest possibilities for development. I believe that this is true not only with regard to producing food, but in forest development, which could become of great importance in the basin area. [end recording]

OIL PURCHASES FROM IRAQ INCREASE

PY241608 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Jan 79 p 19 PY

[Text] A high-ranking PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] source reported yesterday that in spite of the marked reduction of the world oil supply, Brazil has managed to increase its purchases of Iraqi oil from the 150,000 barrels per day purchased during the last quarter of last year, to 250,000 barrels per day. This country is now Brazil's second best supplier of oil, Saudi Arabia continuing to be first.

According to PETROBRAS experts, Iranian oil exports are still suspended and an analysis of the situation made by oil buyers indicates that there is no possibility this supplier will return to normal soon. In view of this, PETROBRAS has increased its purchases of Iraqi oil, and this very week an Iraqi mission will arrive in Rio to implement an agreement with Brazil regarding the sale of Brazilian services to Iraq.

The PETROBRAS commercial department is also making contacts with Venezuela, Mexico and the PRC to increase its oil imports from these suppliers. In the meantime, experts believe that the situation in the international market is one of anxiousness because despite Iraq's increase of production, not even 5 percent of the oil no longer supplied by Iran has been replaced.

Iraqi Ambassador on Oil

PY250152 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Jan 79 p 16 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Iraqi Ambassador to Brazil Zayd Haydar said yesterday at the end of a 1-hour meeting with Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira that his country "is always ready to supply petroleum for Brazilian needs in any situation, whether serious or not." He explained that "this has emerged from Brazilian support in 1973, when it became the first country to break the boycott imposed on Iraqi oil by the "seven sisters," after the nationalization of its oil."

The Iraqi ambassador also confirmed that Iraqi Vice President Taha Ma'ruf will visit Brazil in May and that he will stay a month, making contact with General Figueiredo's new government. The Iraqi commerce minister, who should arrive in Brasilia this month, postponed his trip, arguing that there are only 2 months before the government changes.

Ambassador Haydar recalled that in 1973 the cartel of the great petroleum companies released a slogan saying that the Iraqi petroleum was "red," but Brazil has had a very firm position--President Geisel was then president of the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [PETROBRAS]--and broke the blockade. He also stressed that "from that attitude arose a profound feeling of gratitude within both the Iraqi Government and people."

The Iraqi ambassador also stated that Iraqi support during this time of petroleum shortage caused by the Iranian crisis "is also due to the Brazilian policy of support to the Arab causes in general." He also said that Foreign Minister Silveira assured him during the meeting that this policy will be maintained during the Figueiredo government.

Haydar also said that "by 1980 Iraq will be the first supplier of petroleum to Brazil." He emphasized that his government is really willing to increase its oil exports to Brazil, and in exchange is willing to acquire an increased volume of manufactured products and services. Last year Iraq sold $1.1 billion worth of petroleum to Brazil. According to the ambassador, Iraq is also interested in promoting the transfer of Brazilian technology.

FIGUEIREDO'S FINANCE MINISTER WARNS OF INFLATION

PY241753 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1605 GMT 24 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 24 Jan (LATIN)--Future Finance Minister Karlos Rischbieter has warned that the country runs the risk of becoming a new Iran unless the Brazilian Government eliminates absolute poverty. This remark was made last night during a press conference at which he referred to the priority Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo's future government will give to the struggle against inflation.

The future minister, who is now president of the Banco do Brasil, also warned that it will not be possible to reduce the present rate of inflation unless cooperation from all sectors of the population can be counted upon. He stated that so far only the workers have "tightened their belts." He added that inflation cannot be fought by loading the burden only on the backs of wage earners.

He made it clear that Baptista Figueiredo's government will concern itself greatly with seeking to narrow present regional and individual inequalities, and that to this end it will propose to Congress several draft laws aimed at substantially modifying the system of taxation, returns and profits. The future minister added: "No congressman can be against measures aimed at improving the distribution of income in this country."

FUTURE FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PY231418 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 20 Jan 79 p 3 PY

[Special report for CLARIN on press conference with future Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro by Carlos Conde following announcement of new ministers on 19 January]

[Text] Brasilia--Future Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro has said that Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay must find a NATIONAL AND OBJECTIVE formula of reconciliation on the Parana River. He added: "I see advantages for all in Itaipu. That includes Argentina. I cannot imagine that these countries are not able to find a rational and objective formula on the Parana River. Itaipu is a subject of sovereignty for Brazil and Paraguay, and of natural interest for Argentina. Regarding other points of conflict in South America, Brazil has always been a peaceful country and therefore it proposes peaceful solutions. Conflicts are common among countries, but the important thing is to find peaceful solutions to the conflicts," he added.

Current Ambassador to France Saraiva Guerreiro agreed to a press conference after the solemn introduction of the future ministers by General Figueiredo.

The future foreign minister received reporters in an office he is using temporarily at Itamaraty's general secretariat. Saraiva Guerreiro said that he does not see how Brazilian-U.S. relations "CANNOT BUT BE EXCELLENT." He explained his point of view: "THE UNITED STATES IS A GREAT COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE MAINTAIN A GREAT VARIETY OF RELATIONS IN ALL SECTORS. TO THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE PRECISE IDEAS ON NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS, THOSE RELATIONS WILL BECOME CLEAR AS THE OBJECTIVES ARE ACHIEVED. BRAZILIAN RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES, ARE CHARACTERIZED BY THE GROWING INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BRAZIL, WITHOUT ANY MEGALOMANIA. IN RELATIVE TERMS, WE ARE BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT EVERY DAY. PRESIDENT GEISEL'S GOVERNMENT HAS PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO FOREIGN POLICY AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY. BRAZIL IS BECOMING A MORE COMPLEX COUNTRY, AND NECESSARILY FOREIGN RELATIONS BECOME MORE COMPLEX. BUT THAT COMPLEXITY DOES NOT MEAN THAT RELATIONS HAVE TO BECOME LESS FRIENDLY."

Ambassador Saraiva Guerreiro said there is no urgency in reestablishing relations with Cuba: "WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT HERE, AND THERE IS NO URGENCY IN DISCUSSING RELATIONS WITH CUBA. IT IS A SUBJECT WHICH WILL DEVELOP IN TIME."

A reporter objected to the fact that Brazil is not taking the initiative in reestablishing relations with Cuba while Argentina is selling some 40,000 motor vehicles to that country. Saraiva Guerreiro answered: "THAT QUESTION UNDERESTIMATES THE IMPORTANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. IF WE OBSERVE, WITH THE PASSING OF TIME, WE WILL SEE THAT SOME INITIATIVES YIELD FRUITS AND REMAIN THAT WAY, WHILE OTHERS DO NOT YIELD FRUITS WITH THE PASSING OF TIME. BRAZIL IS A VERY SERIOUS COUNTRY, VERY CAREFUL, AND IT IS NOT GOING TO TAKE INITIATIVES IN A MATTER OF MONTHS THAT COULD CHANGE IN A YEAR. WE ARE A LITTLE MORE PATIENT. WE COORDINATE SUBJECTS WHICH SPECIFICALLY CONCERN US IN THE FIELD OF MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS."

We have no deductive [aprioristico] positions because we do not seek any dramatic effects in foreign policy which do not seem to be solid. We cannot think only in a utopian form." [quotation marks as published]

The nuclear agreement with Argentina was another subject mentioned by the foreign minister: "There is no comment in this regard. It is a perfect, complete and current treaty which will be implemented with good faith by both parties."

The ambassador has clear ideas about Brazilian relations with Africa: "Brazil knows how to take advantage of the opportunities," he said. "It knows how to act correctly to establish correct relations with those countries and naturally it will continue depending on both subjective and objective factors. There is a historical, racial, cultural background which facilitates a friendly relationship with the African countries. This has already been revealed in a statement made by the president-elect to foreign reporters: We are a country which, through its own formation, has a certain capacity for understanding other nations without prejudices. We are a large country with geographical and ecological regions that have great differences in living and educational levels, and despite that difference we are a great and united country. That is the truth."

The future foreign minister indicated the course of continuity with President Geisel's foreign policy to be adopted by Figueiredo: "Regarding principles and positions concerning, let us say, the way of thinking [disposicion de espiritu] OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE NOTHING TO CHANGE. What can be changed--and what probably will be changed, because the world is never the same--will be the specific manifestations, because the international situation changes, and there are always new domestic and foreign events. What characterized Geisel's government was adapting itself to the circumstances of the moment, following a certain line of confidence toward the country. For that very reason, that same objective rational adaptation to the circumstances which may appear in the future can lead us to positive expressions of foreign policy which may be different from previous ones. Obviously, there is no stagnation, THERE IS ALWAYS DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE POSITIONS OF CONFIDENCE TOWARD THE COUNTRY IN DEFENSE OF ITS INTERESTS."

Regarding Brazilian trade relations with China and the Soviet Union, he said they are correct. He said: "It is an accomplishment which must be permanent, and it is important to identify the opportunities and to alert national economic bodies to those opportunities. This is a task fulfilled by Itamaraty which has also contributed in various ways to the creation of a political atmosphere in bilateral relations favorable to the Brazilian presence in every sense."

26 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO BE ADMITTED

PY250111 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Jan 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Brazil will receive 26 Vietnamese refugees who are in Singapore. They are the remainders of a group of 66 found drifting in high seas by the tanker Jurupema in October 1978. "In this case Brazil has a specific responsibility," Felipe Lampreia, Itamaraty spokesman, said.

The Government of Singapore, where the tanker anchored, has agreed to disembarking the group as long as the UN High Commission for Refugees assumes the responsibility of distributing them to other countries within a period of 3 months. The period ended yesterday and 26 refugees remained, who will come to Brazil.

BRIEFS

POLICEMEN SUSPENDED--Rio Grande do Sul Governor Sinval Guazelli yesterday suspended two policemen of the political and social order department in that state, Pedro Seelig and Orandir Lucas, for possible involvement in the kidnaping of Uruguayan citizens Lilian Celiberti and Universindo Diaz, who have been delivered to Uruguayan authorities. The indictment of these two policemen will require obtaining legally valid evidence of their participation in the illegal action. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Jan 79 p 1 PY]

NEW EMBRAER PLANE--Sao Paulo--The new 20-30-passenger plane which EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] is currently developing--the EMB-120 Araguai--will soon replace the EMB-123 Tapajos which carries 15 passengers, and will also guarantee the production of equipment which so far EMBRAER has been importing from Northrop. The new plane might make its first flight in May. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Jan 79 p 13 PY]

LOW-COST HEAVY WATER--A group of scientists of Campinas University has come up with a new process to produce heavy water through electromagnetic excitement by means of laser beams. It is considered that this method will produce heavy water at costs a hundredth of those known so far. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Jan 79 p 31 PY]

EMBRAER EXPORTS--According to a report released yesterday by EMBRAER Superintendent Col Isures Silva, exports represent 32 percent of the company's total receipts for 1978. Colonel Silva also emphasized the importance of U.S. approval for the Bandeirante plane after a similar approval granted by France, the United Kingdom and Australia, all of which considerably broaden the prospects of this industry abroad. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Jan 79 p 2 PY]

GOVERNMENT PLEASED BY PAPAL DECISION TO MEDIATE

PY241806 Paris AFP in Spanish 1642 GMT 24 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 24 Jan (AFP)--It was noted here today that the Chilean Government received with satisfaction the announcement that Pope John Paul II will act as mediator in the border dispute with Argentina.

Hector Riesle, Chilean ambassador to the Vatican, informed the Chilean Foreign Ministry of the pope's decision. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said: We receive this news with satisfaction and optimism.

STATE OF SIEGE MAY BE ENDED IN MINING PROVINCE

PY241729 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1415 GMT 24 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 24 Jan (TELAM-EFE)--If the present normal labor situation continues the Chilean Government will not extend the state of siege next month which is in force in the northern Province of Calama, where the Chuquicamata copper mine is located. This announcement was made by Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez, who said that the state of siege was adopted because of the political agitation in the mining center when workers refused to go to dining halls during the "free lunch" strikes.

POWERFUL BOMB EXPLODES IN GOVERNMENT OFFICE

PY242244 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2023 GMT 24 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 24 Jan (LATIN)--The police reported that a high-powered bomb exploded in the building of the State Urban Housing Service (SERVIU) in this capital early this morning but there were no casualties. The violent explosion broke the windows of the building and those of several nearby houses, creating panic in the San Miguel neighborhood.

Police said that they did not know the purpose of the attack perpetrated by unknown persons who ran away. They also indicated that the home-made bomb could have created a real tragedy since it was placed near a gas tank. Attacks of this nature have been carried out in different sectors of this capital in the last few months and members of the Chilean extreme left have been charged with the attack.

FORMER AMBASSADOR DESCRIBES PERUVIAN DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN

PY241927 Paris AFP in Spanish 1811 GMT 24 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 24 Jan (AFP)--Former Chilean Ambassador to Peru Francisco Bulnes stated here today that there is a campaign against Chile in Peru, promoted by circles poisoned with animosity. Declared persona non grata last weekend, Bulnes left the Peruvian capital under charges of espionage and released a communique today in which he studies the incidents of the diplomatic crisis.

I do not include all Peruvians within the circles poisoned with animosity which have promoted the campaign against Chile, Bulnes said. Charges of espionage involving four embassy officials and two Chilean Navy officers gave rise, according to Bulnes, to the enemies of Chile recovering their influence in the Peruvian press and radio.

He added that since the end of last year those elements have developed a real campaign against Chile, taking advantage of the centennial anniversary of the War of the Pacific. A century will have passed this year since Peru and Bolivia lost part of their territories which today make up part of the extreme north of Chile.

In his communique, the 61-year-old former diplomat reiterated that he was not involved in the episode of espionage and added that there were unfortunate activities engaged in by some Chilean officials who do not belong to the civilian personnel of his embassy and over whom he, in fact, had no authority.

PINOCHET VIEWS ECCNOMY, LETELIER, TERRITORIAL ISSUES

LD241257 Madrid ABC in Spanish 16 Jan 79 pp 19-20 LD

[Carlos Mendo interview in Santiago with President Pinochet: "We Will Enforce Our Sovereignty Over Beagle Channel"--date not specified]

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 13 January--"The Montevideo agreement, by which Chile and Argentina decided to seek the Holy See's mediation in order to attempt to achieve a settlement in their southern dispute, represents a considerable easing of the tension between the two countries," President of the Republic of Chile Gen Augusto Pinochet Ugarte has told ABC.

In exclusive statements to our newspaper, General Pinochet, president of the military junta which overthrew the Salvador Allende regime on 11 September 1973, added that "there are neither winners nor losers in this kind of agreement." "We now hope that the holy father will accept the mediation which has been sought and that a solution satisfactory to both sides can be reached under the auspices of the Holy See," he stated.

General Pinochet's interview with this special correspondent was held in his official office, situated on the top floor of the Diego Portales Building, which was constructed at the beginning of this decade to accomodate the UNCTAD conference.

Pinochet was wearing civilian clothes--a light-colored alpaca suit with a grey tie. He was cordial without being effusive and spoke slowly and with conviction. He evaded only one question, when asked for his reaction to Spain's decision to vote against Chile at the United Nations. "Because of the affection and respect which I feel toward Spain, I will not answer that question," he told me.

Economic Situation

[Question] Could you summarize, Mr President, your government's achievements in the economic field from the fall of Allende to the present, and how does your government intend to combat the problem of unemployment?

[Answer] The set of political and social achievements which have represented a real recovery by the country in only 5 years is probably more important than the economic achievements, which are indeed admirable in themselves.

The economic achievements have in fact been amazing: control of inflation, reducing it from 1,000 percent in 1973 to 30 percent in 1978, an increase of over 500 percent in non-traditional exports, normal and sometimes early repayment of the foreign debt, a 49-percent increase in the purchasing power of money, the attainment of over $2.4 billion in foreign investments and the recovery of normal output rates, from minus 3.6 percent in 1973 to over 8.6 percent in 1977--in short, a lengthy list of achievements which demonstrates the recovery.

However, an attempt is often made to dull the brilliance of these results by attributing the problem of unemployment to them. In this connection we must do justice to the historical fact that points out that the historical rate of unemployment in Chile--that is, the normal rate of unemployment which occurs for reasons of labor mobility--has always been about 6 percent. Under the Allende government this rate fell to over 3 percent, as a result of the indiscriminate hiring of staff by the public administration and increased public expenditure, disguising unemployment by creating unnecessary and only apparently worthwile jobs. Since all that public expenditure, added to the private sector's economic paralysis had no real financial backing the catastrophic results were not long in coming, resulting, among other things, in the 1,000-percent rate of 1973.

Well, this meant inheriting a high percentage of disguised unemployment which, when it was exposed by the reorganization of public expenditure and industrial normalization, totaled almost 20 percent during the 1975 world crisis. Unemployment fell from 20 percent to 11 percent between 1975 and 1978. We believe that with the present rate of investment and economic recovery, plus some special measures aimed at making manpower cheaper, the country can return to its normal unemployment rates, subject to normal conditions, within not more than 2 years.

In any case, what the government is not prepared to do is fall again into the mistake of reducing unemployment rates by disguising unemployment, creating temporary or sectional incentives or manipulating statistics. Real problems must be given real solutions; to do otherwise is to deceive the people, because they pay for any unsupported expenditure in the long run in the form of inflation or their own taxes.

[Question] What is the situation of the trade unions in Chile and what do Chilean workers think of the present situation? Are the achievements in the fight against inflation not being attained at the cost of a single social class?

[Answer] The new labor legislation is fully in keeping with Chilean workers' most deeply felt aspirations. The principal aim is to save the trade union movement from political manipulation by those who used the workers for years to satisfy their personal ambitions or to serve the plans of foreign pressure groups. Those who support the former labor legislation in order to serve foreign interests or their own petty interests clearly have foreign support, but those pseudoleaders represent a very small group of Chileans; rather, they represent international party political interests. Moreover, since their stances serve the game of Chile's enemies, they are repeated and amplified to the entire world, where they form part of the anti-Chilean campaign, but, I repeat, they are unrepresentative of the Chilean labor movement.

As far as the second part of your question is concerned, it is sufficient merely to look at the reality of Chile and realize that each and every Chilean is paying the price of Allende's political experiment; of course, it is more obvious among the poorest people, but that does not mean that many enterprising industrialists or farmers have not suffered severely from the effects of recovery measures.

[Question] What, Mr President, is the current state of relations between Chile and the United States? Do you believe that the so-called "Letelier affair" and President Carter's human rights policy are making normality in those relations difficult?

[Answer] Chile's relations with the United States are normal. The so-called "Letelier affair" and the policy pursued by President Carter in the field of human rights are no obstacle to normality in Chilean-U.S. relations [paragraph continues]

The "Letelier affair" is on a juridicial level on which Chile's Government and judiciary have rendered full assistance and cooperation. In the field of human rights the steps taken by Chile demonstrate unequivocally its vocation of respect for people and their basic rights; in an unprecedented gesture, Chile has even allowed a special commission to visit Chile and conduct an extensive investigation into the state of human rights in the country. Chile has nothing to hide, and its stance in this connection is candid and open, in sharp contrast to other countries, where all human rights are systematically violated, yet which attack Chile solely because of political hatred.

[Question] Do you believe possible, Mr President, the formation in the future of a Latin American community of nations, on the lines of the British Commonwealth, with Spanish participation in it?

[Answer] Chile is convinced that any initiative to achieve unity in the region is of great importance, especially if it is aimed at giving Latin America greater influence in the world; the form which it takes should be sought in accordance with our situation and common aspirations. The contribution which Spain could make with its presence and values would obviously be considerable and enriching.

Border Disputes

[Question] Mr President, does your government support Bolivia's aspiration to secure an outlet to the Pacific? If so, can you tell us what specific steps Chile proposes for realizing that aspiration?

[Answer] For reasons which are totally unconnected with the Chilean Government, diplomatic relations with Bolivia are, regrettably, suspended at present. In suspending them, Bolivia also suspended the dialog which it was holding with my government with respect to its landlocked situation. Chile will always be prepared to engage in dialog with Bolivia on this and other topics, provided that the La Paz government is prepared to restore in advance a state of normality which we do not have at present.

[Question] The Beagle Channel issue has for some time been among the potential conflicts currently existing in the world. Could you tell us what Chile's stance is with respect to this issue? And, if no settlement formula is found, how far would your country be prepared to go in defense of what it regards as the defense of its interests?

[Answer] I believe it very important for there to be an awareness in the world of the potential risk currently involved by the southern dispute with the Argentine Republic.

Chile's stance is one of respect for treaties and international law. Our rights of sovereignty over the area are clear, and our determination to enforce them is unshakable. For the sake of peace, Chile is not only prepared to accept mediation by a friendly country but is furthermore prepared to take all steps accorded to it by international law to seek a peaceful solution to this dispute. We hope that the Argentine Republic will adopt a positive stance on this matter and help achieve a peaceful and just agreement. The campaigns of hostility and intimidation which have been launched against Chile leave undented our iron resolve to enforce Chile's interests and the motherland's sovereignty, which is the legacy of our history.

INTELLIGENCE SERVICES CONTINUE ANTISUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS

PA242325 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The military intelligence services have intensified their activities over the past few hours to completely dismantle the dangerous and subversive M-19 organization. After locating a new people's jail in the northwestern part of the capital, they conducted several raids in various parts of the city.

In the Santa Isabel neighborhood, located in the southern part of the city, the secret agents raided a house, arresting five persons allegedly implicated in the subversive movement's activities.

According to a military spokesman, an average of 16 raids are carried out daily with extraordinary results. At least 200 persons have been arrested, and 100 of them have already made depositions before the military judges.

Meanwhile, labor leader Teresa Valencia has provided the authorities with important information in connection with the kidnaping and murder of Jose Raquel Mercado, leader of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia [as heard]. The investigators asked Valencia to testify about the activities of Magistrate Tony Lopez Hoyuela, who is in jail.

Arrest Warrants Issued

PA242327 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The military authorities today issued arrest warrants for VOZ PROLETARIA journalist Augusto Lara Sanchez and seven other persons accused of being members of the dangerous and subversive M-19 organization.

The warrants issued by Gonzalo Alvarez Castro, first examining penal military judge, also include M-19 public relations official Olga Lopez (Pernillo), Alfonso (Castro Pedroza), Rafael (Tiro Labarca), Elena Isaacs (Pravs), Sergio (Descarter) Benitez, Alva (Neyra) Gonzalez and Juan Victor Vivar.

The military examining judge is reportedly preparing other arrest warrants.

CAVALRY SCHOOL COMMANDER DISMISSED 'UNEXPECTEDLY'

PA240230 Bogota Cadena Radial [illegible]per in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Col Alfonso Vaca, commander of the army's cavalry school, was dismissed unexpectedly from the unit and Col Luis Alfonso Torres was appointed in his place.

National Defense Ministry spokesmen said that the transfer of command took place today at noon in the presence of high-ranking military officers including Army Commander Gen Jorge Robledo Pulido. Military sources said that the change in command in the cavalry school was a routine event. The change was not prompted by anything that could lead to dangerous speculation.

It is in this military unit that most of the persons charged with belonging to the terrorist M-19 group are being held.

AUTHORITIES TAKE MEASURES AGAINST STREET DISORDERS

PA250312 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The government has issued a communique announcing that it will not permit the prices for daily necessities to be increased. Meanwhile, Col Julio Enrique Dobronsky, secretary general of public administration, said that anyone caught disrupting public order will be fined by the authorities.

[Begin Dobronsky recording] Because of rumors that the price of milk will be increased, the government announces that it will not permit an increase in the price of daily necessities. On the contrary, the authorities will fine anyone caught speculating with basic daily items. Regarding the street disorders that unscrupulous persons are staging using the students as a front, the government is taking the proper measures to see that they are legally prosecuted and punished accordingly. Anyone arrested for destroying private or state property, students or otherwise, will be arraigned and will have to pay for the damage. [end recording]

Meanwhile, street disorders have continued in various parts of the city. Students from different schools are participating. Adolescents have been throwing all kinds of items at cars in Quito's south side.

The students are saying that they are protesting because of the high cost of living and because the price of milk is going to be increased as is the price of meat and sugar.

Some students have been arrested and one that was injured has disappeared from the hospital where he was taken for treatment, it was reported.

GOVERNMENT REFINANCES FOREIGN LOANS

PA221430 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 22 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The refinancing of foreign loans for $350 million, approximately 8.75 billion sucres, has been almost completed. The terms of the new operation with international banks are for 10 years at 7- or 8-percent annual interest. According to official sources, this is possible because of Ecuador's economic situation, which has opened the door to financing organizations so that the national debt can be refinanced to the amount of $500 million, approximately 12.5 billion sucres. The government will immmediately proceed to refinance $350 million, which does not prevent it from seeking refinancing for the total amount authorized.

Besides reducing interest rates, extending the deadline to pay the debt and granting a grace period, another benefit from refinancing the foreign debt will be the availability of funds to finance basic services and development projects in the next 3 and 1/2 years.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT OPPOSES ANDEAN PACT

PA241437 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Manta, Ecuador--According to Jose Plaza Nuque, President of the National Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Ecuador, who is here presiding over an important meeting, to insist on remaining within the Andean Pact represents the greatest of sacrifices for Ecuador. According to Plaza, the Ecuadorean people deserve a better fate regarding their economic development than being unmercifully absorbed and exploited by foreign production.

FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS ON ITAIPU, CORPUS PROJECTS

PY231753 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Jan 79 p 10 PY

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues, Rear Adm Guillermo Haywood, ret., Enzo Debernardi and Carlos A. Saldivar met early yesterday with President Alfredo Stroessner to brief him on the talks they had with Rear Adm Horacio Raul Colombo, special envoy of the Argentine foreign minister, regarding coordination of the Itaipu and Corpus hydroelectric projects.

Referring to the height of Corpus, Minister Nogues said that "the Argentine proposal does not conflict with factors which Paraguay and Brazil are taking into account, and so the proposal should be studied. It is basically the document which had been prepared in Rio de Janeiro with some modifications both in wording and basic ideas." This may mean that Argentina accepts 105 meters as Corpus' height and 20 turbines for Itaipu.

At another point in the interview, Minister Nogues pointed out that the final agreement will be reached through a document which is to be signed previously in Asuncion, as it should be. He added: "Our country is a partner in both projects, Itaipu and Corpus, and so it is only logical that the document be signed in our capital."

It was also learned that Paraguayan delegates will go to Buenos Aires in early February to participate in the trilateral group charged with writing the preliminary document.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET TO VISIT ASUNCION

PY231847 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 21 Jan 79 p 3 PY

[Excerpt] Gen Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, president of the Chilean Government Junta, will again visit Paraguay next February. The visit will be used to analyze with President Alfredo Stroessner matters of international and particularly bilateral interest which are strengthening the traditional links of friendship and which contribute to the expansion of trade.

The brief report, obtained in diplomatic circles, confirms the rumor of the visit heard during the recent visit to Chile by the commander, team of instructors and pupils of the command and staff school of the armed forces after the graduation of the 1978 course. The Paraguayan military delegation, headed by Gen Carmelo Pineiro Zarza, was cordially received by General Pinochet in a special audience. On that occasion it was reportedly suggested to the Chilean president that he make another fraternal visit to Paraguay.

When Foreign Ministry sources were asked yesterday about the report of a new visit to this country by President Pinochet Ugarte, they refrained from replying, saying that the report could be confirmed or denied only by the highest government circles. Nevertheless, the diplomatic circles we contacted yesterday insisted that the president of the Chilean Government Junta had announced that he would soon visit Paraguay again.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE TECHNICAL MISSION ARRIVES--A technical mission of the Japanese Overseas Economic Fund arrived yesterday afternoon in Asuncion in order to conclude the negotiations related to the credit granted to the Paraguayan merchant marine for the purchase of ships, barges and tugs. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 24 Jan 79 p 8 PY]

INTERNATIONAL INCIDENTS EXPECTED TO DELAY ELECTIONS

PA231855 Paris AFP in Spanish 1737 GMT 23 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 23 Jan (AFP)--Political commentators said here today that the general elections scheduled for midyear will be postponed because of the deterioration of relations with Chile and because Peruvians have been tortured in (?Ecuador).

(?Luis Bedoya), leader of the Popular Christian Party, the country's second most important political force, has practically requested that the government postpone elections by (?saying) that he will accept and support postponement if international circumstances should make a united government necessary.

The government, which has not yet made a statement on the issue, had been reiterating that the elections would take place at the completion of the efforts of the Constituent Assembly, which is drafting a new constitution--in other words, in June or July of this year.

The Popular Christian Party communique added: If we become aware that there is a moment of tension, a time for united positions and decisions, not only would we refrain from protesting if the electoral process is suspended, but we would be obliged to support whoever is in government.

In another quarter it has been confirmed that today (?separate) motions were presented to the plenum of the Constituent Assembly regarding acts of espionage by officials of the Chilean Embassy leading to the forced withdrawal of Chilean Ambassador Francisco Bulnes 2 days ago, and regarding Peru's protest to the Ecuadorean Government over the torture of Peruvian citizens by Ecuadorean military personnel

Meanwhile, Andres Towsend, a member of the Constituent Assembly and a leader of the Aprist party, with a large majority in the assembly, said: We hope to complete the constitution by late March in order to hasten the convocation of general elections.

However, the final decision regarding the date of the elections will be made by the military government in line with, and on the basis of, the development of the two international incidents involving Chile and Ecuador.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY REPUDIATES CHILEAN SPYING

PY241744 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1550 GMT 24 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Lima, 24 Jan (TELAM-ANSA)--After a long debate held in secret, the Peruvian Constituent Assembly confirmed this morning its categorical repudiation of the espionage activities carried out last October by Chilean officers, and at the same time rejected a leftist motion proposing the severance of relations with Chile. The motion of rejection was unanimously approved by the 100 constituent deputies who represent political groups of various tendencies.

HERRERA ADOPTS CAUTIOUS STANCE ON L. AMERICAN COMMITMENTS

PA241942 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1137 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[By Jorge Benales]

[Text] Caracas, 24 Jan (LATIN)--Luis Herrera Campins, the next Venezuelan president, has announced a policy of firm opposition to the authoritarian governments predominating in Central America but will begin his administration on 12 March with commitments to provide substantial financial aid to the six countries in the area.

The most outstanding steps in Venezuela's foreign policy have been taken in regard to Central America, such as charges against the government of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza and the support given to Panama during its negotiations with the United States for a new Panama Canal treaty.

Carlos Andres Perez, the outgoing president, maintained close ties with Gen Omar Torrijos, commander of the Panamanian National Guard, throughout the treaty negotiations which culminated in 1978 with the visit paid to Panama by Perez himself, his U.S. counterpart Jimmy Carter and other heads of state who attended the exchange of ratification instruments in June. All through this process, Venezuela acted as major spokesman of Latin American solidarity with Panama in regard to the latter's demands for sovereignty over the canal and the adjacent zone. It also warned the United States that rejection of the treaties could seriously harm hemispheric relations when the treaties became the subject of a heated debate in the U.S. Congress.

Herrera, 53, was secretary general of the Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA) for 10 years. He says he enjoys recalling how on many occasions he had to face up to the arbitrary attitudes of dictatorial governments in violation of human rights.

As a former ODCA secretary general, the Venezuelan president-elect is pleased about the advance of social Christian ideology by the existence of a government of this type in Costa Rica, presided over by Rodrigo Carazo, and his own victory in the 3 December elections.

Although his own principles are not in harmony with those of the authoritarian governments in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, Herrera will inherit financial assistance commitments to them amounting to $511 million, according to official figures. This assistance is channeled through the Venezuelan Investment Fund (FIV), a ministerial-level body created to handle excess oil earnings and to avert spiraling inflation at home. Venezuela's oil earnings have quadrupled since 1974.

The largest amount of assistance, $111 million, has been granted to Guatemala, which was devastated by an earthquake in February 1976. Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia's government is awaiting receipt of $19 million to complete this figure.

The commitment to Nicaragua amounts to $62 million, of which $11 million remains to be delivered even though relations between the two governments are currently tense in view of Venezuela's firm support for efforts to democratize Nicaragua and the charges it has lodged at international forums against Somoza, whose family has been in power since the 1930's.

Venezuela has promised to provide $90 million in aid to El Salvador. Of this, it has already delivered $76 million and it continues to acknowledge its commitment to the government of Gen Carlos Humberto Romero.

For its part, the government of Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, head of the military triumvirate that overthrew Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro in Honduras, has been promised $78 million in aid, of which $15 million remains to be delivered.

The amount pledged to the friendly Government of Panama, currently headed by Aristides Royo, is $95 million. Of this, $16 million is still to be delivered. The amount promised to Costa Rica is $69 million, of which $15 million is pending delivery.

Venezuela has supported a policy of understanding and negotiation in regard to international conflicts in Central America. It has promoted consultation between Honduras and El Salvador at the OAS.

Regarding Guatemala's claim of sovereignty over Belize, Venezuela has made statements of principle regarding the right of self-determination of peoples but has maintained a cautious attitude in regard to Guatemalan, Mexican and Belizean demands.

Herrera describes himself as an advocate of integration in principle and has announced his intention to continue supporting cooperation efforts through the Latin American Economic System. In addition, Venezuela sits together with the Central American countries at the producers table in the international negotiations on coffee, a product which is vital to many countries in the area.

However, the future president has been very cautious in his statements about the commitment undertaken by his predecessor during the Nicaraguan civil war in September, when Venezuela signed a mutual defense pact with Costa Rica following incidents on the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border. This pact has already resulted in the sending, for 1 week, of a squadron of fighter planes and antiaircraft guns to Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose. Although the military deployment was officially a good will gesture, this is the first time combat troops have been dispatched outside Venezuela during its history as an independent nation.

Venezuela embodied Simon Bolivar's tradition and Latin Americanist thinking in its constitution, pledging to promote the democratic system and respect for human rights.

POSTAL WORKERS END STRIKE; NO SOLUTION REACHED

PA250344 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2130 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 24 Jan (LATIN)--The strike command which led a 6-day strike staged by 15,000 Venezuelan postal and telegraphic workers today announced that the strike had ended although the dispute was not solved.

Venezuelan Postal and Telegraphic Institute workers throughout the country went on strike last week to demand their pay for the first 2 weeks in January and better working conditions as well as to express their rejection of the leaders of the Single Union of Public Employees of the Transportation and Communications Ministry [Sindicato Unico de Empleados Publicos en el Ministerio de Transporte y Comunicaciones]. The strike command announced the resumption of work effective today and its intention to continue in its efforts to obtain the legal status for their organization through which they can channel all their union demands.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCES OVER WATER SHORTAGE IN CARACAS SUBURB

PA232251 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Eight persons were injured, more than 60 arrested and 20 cars damaged today in Caricuao as a result of disturbances caused by a water shortage in different sectors of this heavily populated district.

It was learned that the disturbances began at approximately 0900 on the main street of La Hacienda sector and it was not until 2100 that the metropolitan police managed to control the situation.

According to official information, students from the different high schools of Caricuao joined the demonstrators from the district protesting the water shortage of the last few weeks. Eight persons were injured, four of whom were hospitalized in Perez Carreno hospital. They are Eloy Caraballo, Adolfo Ramirez, Eusebio Gonzalez Martinez and Luisa Rosales.

It was also reported that 20 vehicles, mostly cars, were seriously damaged. Several of them had broken windows. The demonstrators erected barricades to block traffic in various parts of Caricuao and burned old tires. Several brigades of metropolitan police were sent in and they managed to restore order only after almost 7 hours had passed. It was also learned that the police arrested 60 persons, the majority of them youths who were throwing stones from the hills adjacent to the areas where the disturbances occurred.

The disturbance staged by the people of Caricuao was caused by the lack of water which they have endured for several months. They have lodged complaints with different authorities, especially the water department, but have not managed to have proper water service restored.

BRIEFS

NEW CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT--Caracas, 24 Jan (LATIN)--The government has appointed former Education Minister Carlos Rafael Silva president of the Central Bank of Venezuela to replace Benito Raul Losada, who resigned last week for personal reasons. In accordance with the Central Bank's organic law, Silva will remain in this new post until January or February 1981. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA]

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT VISITS--Mariano Rumor, president of the World Union of Christian Democrats, arrived in Caracas on 23 January. He will attend the celebration of the 33d anniversary of the Venezuelan Social Christian Party (COPEI). [Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA]

MONETARY COUNCIL PRESIDENT RESIGNS--Dr Felipe (Risanova) has resigned as president of the National Monetary Council for undisclosed reasons. Dr Moises Capriles is expected to replace him. [Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA]

GROUP OF 12 MEMBERS ARRIVE HERE, HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

PA250140 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1904 GMT 24 Jan 79 Pa

[News conference with members of the Nicaraguan opposition "Group of 12" on their arrival today at Tocumen International Airport in Panama City--live]

[Excerpts] [Sergio Ramirez] In the name of the group, I wish to express our deep gratitude to the Panamanian Government and people for their welcome and for their solidarity with us as representatives of an all-out campaign of the Nicaraguan people against the Somozist dictatorship.

We can say that Nicaragua will have no effective and lasting peace and there will be no possible political solution without the participation of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], which at this moment leads the vanguard of the struggle against the dictatorship and for effective democratization of our country. The fact that in October 1977 we made an appeal for the support of the FSLN and for the creation of a broad anti-Somozist front in the country, including the FSLN, prompted the Somozist dictatorship to file charges against us and sentence us to prison after an obviously political trial, which we challenged by announcing our decision to return to the country and we did so on 5 June 1978. On that day, we were greeted by over 200,000 persons, the largest welcoming rally in the history of Nicaragua, which extended from Las Mercedes airport to the city of Masaya, where the march concluded with a public rally at the Monimbo Plaza.

Now that the mediation, in which nobody--even the dictator, himself--believes, has practically failed we are making great efforts to reorganize a patriotic front to include all Nicaraguan forces fighting against the dictatorship. This patriotic front is ready and the document setting forth its foundation will be signed in Managua in the coming week. It includes the United People's movement (MPU) with 17 popular, labor, women and students groups, and our own Group of 12, which participates as one of the most active members in the formation of this patriotic front. It also includes the Independent Liberal Party, the Nicaraguan Workers Central, the People's Social Christian Party, the National Educators Association, the Radio Newscasters Union and the Conservative Party of Nicaragua, one of the factions of the traditional Conservative Party of our country.

We are sure that other political organizations, once they realize the failure of the mediation, will join this great patriotic front which we consider vital in the overall struggle of the Nicaraguan people, with the FSLN at the vanguard, against the dictatorship.

Seven of the members of the group have arrived in Panama. Ricardo Coronel, who was with us in Venezuela, where we were warmly greeted by the Venezuelan Government and people, left for Germany and other European countries on a mission for our political group. That is why he is not here today. Arturo Cruz, who is a member of the group, is in the United States with Casimiro Sotelo, another member of the group, resides in Mexico. There are three new members of our group. They joined recently and are at this moment in Nicaragua making arrangements for the formation of the great national patriotic front. One of them joined the hunger strike today in support of the demand of the health workers for social services. They are sociologist Dr Reinaldo Antonio (?Tezel), Dr Roberto Aguero Hurtado, who has acted as defense counsel for FSLN members in military trials, and Father Edgar Parrales, one of the most progressive priests in Nicaragua.

We shall announce the incorporation of other Nicaraguans into this group, which will during the coming weeks create a political movement.

Once we have concluded this international tour, during which we shall express our thanks to the peoples and governments for their solidarity with our struggle and reinforce these ties of solidarity, we intend to return to Nicaragua at the end of the first week in February in order to join our people's struggle against the dictatorship.

[Question] During the past several years a stubborn struggle has been waged against the Somoza dictatorship, but it has been led by various movements. Today the Nicaraguan patriotic forces are rallied around the MPU. How are you going to unite with the MPU, which today represents a large body of Nicaraguans?

[Father Miguel Escoto] We, together with the MPU, have been very involved in creating the great national patriotic front, which as Sergio said will be created next week. We have advanced considerably and have reached total agreement with the MPU and the other groups that left Broad Opposition Front [FAO] as well as other new organizations that were neither affiliated with the FAO nor the MPU. We have already reached an agreement on the minimum program that will serve as a basis for unity. Perhaps tomorrow will be the last preparatory meeting to reach an agreement on the composition of the group. This work is very advanced and, as I have said, it is very probable, even though a large part of the work is done, that the official activities will not take place until next Tuesday or possibly Monday.

However, communiques are being drafted in the name of the national patriotic front and today it will participate in its first demonstration. Representatives of the various organizations of the front will join the hunger strike in solidarity with the health workers. Therefore it is very important that the MPU be included this time. This was not possible within the FAO, but now it has been achieved and it is very significant.

[Question] There is one aspect that has been analyzed recently and that is U.S. support for the Somoza dynasty. Does this mean that the opposition so far does not offer any alternative for the future of Nicaragua?

[Father Miguel Escoto] This may mean, in my opinion, that the opposition does not offer any alternative acceptable to the United States. Therefore, it has not made up its mind to withdraw its support once and for all from the Somoza dictatorship, despite the pious statements about human rights in the United States.

We are convinced that the people of Nicaragua have a program. It is contained in the program of minimum agreements of the patriotic front, which is being created in solidarity with the struggle headed by the FSLN. The problem is that the United States still has not made up its mind to respect our right to self-determination. So far, anyway, the U.S. Government has not given evidence of a willingness to break with the genocidal and criminal Somozist regime.

[Question] When you say that the opposition offers no alternative acceptable to the United States, rather than responding to its unwillingness to respect your right to self-determination, is it not possible that its attitude actually corresponds to ideological or political leanings?

[Father Miguel Escoto] When the North Americans first arrived on the mission which they called one of friendly cooperation and conciliation, I remember seeing one of the North Americans and asking him what their actual purpose was in coming to Nicaragua. Were they looking for another Adolfo Diaz, that is, an imperialist lackey, or were they coming here to listen to us and to respect and enforce respect for our rights as a free, independent and sovereign nation? They answered, in fact, that they were coming with that purpose in mind. The truth, however, is that they are searching for persons who may assure them of their obedience to those administering U.S. interests in the country. In other words, they need this type of guarantee.

[Question] In Carter's State of the Union address yesterday or the day before, the U.S. President said the United States would intervene in Iran and Nicaragua only if asked to do so. How do you interpret this statement by the U.S. chief of state?

[Unidentified speaker] Perhaps the United States wants somebody to ask them. In Nicaragua, however, they perhaps lost the opportunity for political mediation because it was totally ineffective. The United States had announced that the mediation would begin with direct pressure on Somoza to make him yield in his positions. The mediation, however, ended by accepting Somoza's proposals because Somoza actually imposed a proposal for a plebiscite which he would control, and the United States concluded that such a plebiscite could not be held because Somoza does not actually want it.

I believe President Carter is still considering this type of political mediation because his government has not abandoned the idea of mediation. Therefore, they are delaying the report of the Inter-American Human Rights Committee on the Nicaraguan situation--which is the most gruesome document ever prepared in Latin America in connection with a dictatorial regime, and which reveals beyond any doubt the genocide committed in Nicaragua between September and October. Since they insist that the mediation process still remains in effect, the report cannot be discussed by the Permanent Consultation Council of the OAS, nor can the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) be applied to Somoza because the mediation, as a process, is still alive.

To us it is highly immoral for a government that has proclaimed the defense of human rights as part of its policy to still hold back such a report from the OAS and obstruct the efforts being made by other Latin American democratic governments to force the OAS to discuss it. That is why we have said that the mediation is just another act of U.S. intervention, something that country has been doing in Nicaragua since 1909, as Father Escoto pointed out.

[Question] Over 1 week ago, General Torrijos visited Venezuela and immediately after his return to Panama he announced a joint operation between the Venezuelan and Panamanian armed forces. What do you think would happen if Venezuela and Panama became involved militarily in Nicaragua?

[Unidentified speaker] I do not believe that would solve anything. We appreciate the political solidarity offered by Venezuela and Panama to the Nicaraguan struggle and the participation of Panamanian fighters who have died in Nicaragua fighting for the freedom of Nicaragua. It has been a generous contribution of blood and an example in our country's struggle. The problem with Somoza, however, is going to be settled by the Nicaraguan people. I am sure that General Torrijos and President Perez have the same idea: This is a problem for the Nicaraguans to settle exclusively, to drive out from the history of Nicaragua this dictatorship that has oppressed us for over 40 years. The one who is interested in internationalizing the problem is Somoza himself because yesterday, for instance, Nicaraguan Air Force planes bombed the town of La Cruz, in Guanacaste Province, Costa Rica, as reported by the international press. Somoza repeatedly attacks the border area with his helicopters and troops.

Why? Because he wants to provoke the military regimes of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to take sides with him in this conflict and to internationalize it. This will give him time and the opportunity to regain strength at a time when he finds himself politically isolated. He remains in power only because the United States is still supporting him and because he still has the loyalty of the high-ranking military leaders who have enriched themselves at the cost of the Nicaraguan people and, for this reason, they maintain their blind loyalty to the Somozist regime. Somoza has had the idea to internationalize the conflict for a long time, and that is why he continuously accuses governments like those of Venezuela and Panama of intervening in behalf of the Sandinist fighters.

[Question] You have said that the dialog has failed. Does this mean that you are prepared for armed action?

[Father Fernando Cardenal] A few days ago, General Somoza said publicly that he will leave Nicaragua only by force. Therefore, it is not the Nicaraguan people who have chosen armed action or violence. It is Somoza who is forcing the Nicaraguan people to arms. The Nicaraguans are a peaceful people and none of the political leaders want violence. We only want a change that will bring democracy and justice through peaceful means. We have been conducting our struggle through means other than violence.

I believe, however, that if there is a country in which there is unfortunately no other way than violence, that country is Nicaragua. Nicaragua has been engaged in a continuous struggle for nearly 1 and 1/2 years--a struggle using every possible political means. In February, there was a 15-day general strike. Regimes such as those of Perez Jimenez in Venezuela and Rojas Pinilla in Colombia were overthrown following 4 or 5 days of a general strike. In February, there was a general strike that lasted 15 days; in August, a general strike began that lasted almost 1 month and 10 days. And Somoza remains in power. There was an insurrection in September that cost 5,000 lives and Somoza remains in power. Moreover, he announced that he will remain in power; that he will only be taken out dead.

Then, it is not the people who have chosen violence; it is Somoza who has chosen violence as the only means for the Nicaraguan people to bring him down. Therefore, since the Nicaraguan people are determined to get rid of Somoza, it will have to be--unfortunately, sadly and dramatically--by means of violence. We have no other choice.

[Question] What is your opinion, based on your observations during your visits to Santo Domingo and other countries, as to the attitude of the young people? Has it been a cold, indifferent attitude?

[Father Fernando Cardenal] We first visited Costa Rica and later Venezuela. The rest of the tour is still undecided. In these countries, however, we have noticed that the desire to support the struggle of the Nicaraguan people and the solidarity with our cause is strong. In fact, the Nicaraguan people are quite concerned about the change of government in Venezuela in March and whether the new Social Christian government will follow President Perez' line. During an interview we held with President-elect Herrera Campins, he told us that the solidarity in Venezuela stems from the people and is above the parties. Because of this, he promised to follow the same policy of President Carlos Andres Perez concerning the problem of Nicaragua.

We were in Costa Rica in February and March of 1978, and I can say that in the countries we have visited, the solidarity with our cause is found among all groups and ages. The young people everywhere have expressed their solidarity with us. There are countries quite far from Nicaragua, such as Chile, for example, in which the young people have feelings of solidarity with us. In fact, we read in a Caracas paper recently that a Chilean youth who was captured said there were no mercenaries in the camps because those who are there are fighting for their ideals. Young people from the United States, Mexico and Panama who have joined our cause feel it is a common cause for the freedom of our nations. So our answer must be affirmative [as heard].

[Question indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker] Well, there is an FSLN in Nicaragua. Everyone knows that within the FSLN there are political factions which, for tactical reasons, have never indicated any division within the Sandinist Front as an organization.

Therefore, when we say we support the FSLN, we mean the vanguard organization that is leading the struggle in Nicaragua. As an historic unit, the FSLN constitutes a total front of the people's struggle against the Somozist dictatorship.

[Question] We have been told at this press conference about the creation of the patriotic front and also about the unity of several organizations based on a program of minimum agreements. Could you explain what those minimum agreements are?

[Unidentified speaker] The program of the patriotic front has three points of minimum agreement. They are nationalism, effective democracy and social justice. Nationalism because the program rejects all foreign interference in the solution of the dictatorship problem for Nicaraguans. We feel we have sufficient experience in foreign political, military or diplomatic intervention and we believe it is up to us Nicaraguans to find the way out of the dictatorship and build a democratic regime in our country.

As to effective democracy, the patriotic front seeks the establishment of a national unity government immediately following the overthrow of the dictatorship, a government that will give participation to all forces which may have contributed to the overthrow of the regime, without ideological discriminations of any kind.

Finally, we speak of social justice because we consider that a democratic change in Nicaragua will involve a change with consequences because some sectors of the U.S. Government feel that there should be a change in Nicaragua but without consequences; that is, Somozism without Somoza. What does a change without consequences mean in Nicaragua? Simply that it is impossible to conceive of an effective democracy in Nicaragua if the Somoza family continues to own the huge wealth it has in the country.

There will no democratic change in Nicaragua, but a massive expropriation of all the assets of the Somoza family. There will be no democratic change in Nicaragua if the entire Somozist power setup is not totally dismantled and the National Guard is not effectively democratized by creating a Nicaraguan Army that will serve only the highest interests of the nation, and not of one family. Without substantial changes in the National Guard, without expropriation of Somoza's assets, there can be no effective changes in Nicaragua.

[Question] When will the patriotic front be constituted?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, the document creating the patriotic front will be signed on Tuesday. The announcement, however, will appear in the Managua dailies, and the radio stations will transmit an initial declaration from the patriotic front as such, already endorsed by all the member organizations, as explained by Father Escoto, in support of the health workers and in support of the repeal of the black code, the radio and television code which Somoza promised to repeal as the result of the pressure exerted by the mediating commission. Of course, Somoza has already forgotten this promise, having received no further pressure.

[Question] Concerning human rights, it is known that Israel and the United States are supplying arms to the Nicaraguan Government, and that the Sandinist forces face a shortage of arms. Israel and the United States, however, are supplying arms to the Nicaraguan regime. What type of action will your group take in the organization of the patriotic front in view of this situation?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, we have constantly been denouncing the fact that the United States is allowing Israel to sell arms to Somoza. The latest shipment of arms sold by Israel to Somoza arrived in three jet cargo planes at Las Mercedes airport in Nicaragua. It included a large amount of ammunition and arms. Israel has also sold Somoza armored vehicles, tanks and planes.

Today we read in the press that the Israeli vice defense minister is visiting Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and other nations in the southern cone of South America, and has announced that Israel will continue to sell arms to Latin American nations. He gives a simple reason for their action: Being nations of the same ideological bloc, there is no danger that the arms will be used by one country against another; therefore, they feel free to conduct these arms transactions.

However, they are selling these arms to Somoza to repress the Nicaraguan people. These arms are quite effective in repressive actions. Israel also claims that since Somoza pays cash, they must sell the arms to him.

When the announcement was made, however, that Israel was supplying arms to Somoza, spokesman of the U.S. State Department said that the United States could not allow Somoza to be defenseless.

[Unidentified speaker] Before closing, I would like to ask the governments of America, through you, to urge the OAS to study the report submitted by the Inter-American Human Rights Committee on the situation in Nicaragua. We believe it is necessary to use every possible means to end Somoza's criminal regime. If the OAS studies this document with sincerity and courage, it will certainly have to impose an economic and diplomatic blockade on Somoza. This will greatly contribute to the overthrow of the dictatorship.

Otherwise, there will be no alternative but armed struggle. We do not want an armed struggle, and we again insist that if there is a group in Nicaragua which does not want an armed struggle, it is our group. And for a simple reason: Besides our own principles, most of us have always favored nonviolence, and we have tried to uphold this principle at all times. However, we are afraid that we may not have any other alternative left but a armed struggle.

PANAMENISTS ACCUSED OF MANEUVERING TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT

Links With Somoza, U.S. Official Cited

PA241528 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Jan 79 p 1 PA

[Text] Political activity stepped up yesterday when it was discovered in Panamenist circles that party leaders have established contacts to set up an alliance between Arnulfo Arias and Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

The alliance between Arnulfism and Somozism is said to be seeking financial support from the Nicaraguan dictator to overthrow Aristides Royo's constitutional government.

Jorge Pacifico Adames and Hildebrando Nicosia, along with the wealthy Louisito Martinz, are the persons entrusted by Arnulfo Arias with making the arrangements. So far, Arias' delegates have met several times with two of General Somoza's closest staff members.

It appears that Panamenism, desperate due to a lack of support from Panamanian economic circles, has decided to get financial aid from the pockets of the also desperate Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

The Panamenists want to exploit Somoza's despicable attitude toward the Panamanian Government in order to obtain a large sum of money that will permit them to become active politically in our country.

The Panamenists say that if they reach power they will join forces with Somoza in his struggle against Nicaraguan guerrillas and support him on his international positions.

It is also known that Louisito Martinz, aside from participating specifically in the alliance with Somoza, has been inviting some persons of influence in the U.S. State Department to put them in touch with the Panamanian political opposition. For this purpose he has brought a Mr Fontaine to our country and will give a dinner in his honor to secure influence in the U.S. capital in favor of the interests of the Panamanian Panamenist Party.

U.S. Official's Activities Reported

PA241530 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[From the "Radioperiodico Conciencia" program by Milciades Ortiz]

[Text] Tonight the Panamanian Human Rights Committee will present a lecture in English by Roger Fontaine, an expert on human rights, at the Panamanian Bar Association. It is too bad that Roger Fontaine's lecture will be given in English. The lecture will be at 2000 at the bar association.

Panamenist Party Denies Charges

PA241636 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1447 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Panama, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Several opposition spokesmen, members of the Panamenist Party, have denied a progovernment newspaper's charge that they are seeking Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza's support to overthrow the national government.

The newspaper CRITICA affirmed today on its front page that Jorge Pacifico Adames, Hildebrando Nicosia and several other Panamenist leaders have contacted persons close to General Somoza to ask for financial aid.

Adames told this agency today that he has no knowledge of such a request for aid, that his alleged participation in these contacts is absolutely false and that, in his opinion, it is just another defamatory attack by the progoverrment press.

Adames is treasurer of the Panamenist Party, which was founded and is still led by former President Armulfo Arias, who has been overthrown on three occasions.

"That report is completely false. One cannot be so stupid as to do something like that. Besides, I have no authority to represent the party," the opposition leader explained.

According to CRITICA, in exchange for the financial aid to overthrow President Aristides Royo, the Panamenists promised that once in power they would back Somoza in his struggle against the Sandinist guerrillas.

LA PALABRA NOT BEING PUBLISHED DUE TO 'INTERNAL PROBLEMS'

PA242328 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

]From "Comentarios y Opiniones del Professor Don Lucho" program]

[Text] Rodrigo Miranda has told me that Chiriqui's LA PALABRA is not being published because of internal problems. The famous shareholders have left LA PALABRA newsmen up in the air. Well, that goes to show that this country's opposition circles have their problems, too.

COSTA RICA

AIR BRIDGE ESTABLISHED FOR CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

Carazo Grants Visas

PA241953 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] No asylum, but visas have been granted to 130 Cubans. A report published by a morning newspaper to the effect that President Rodrigo Carazo Odio had authorized the granting of asylum to 130 Cubans has been denied. What Carazo did authorize was the granting of visas to 130 Cuban citizens, most of whom will leave for other countries after arriving here. Some others will remain here as residents.

Nevertheless, it was made clear that arrangements for the granting of asylum are handled by the Foreign Affairs Ministry but that, for the time being, those Cubans will only receive a visa to travel to Costa Rica.

Minister Echeverria Comments

PA242234 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2205 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Carlos Jimenez report from the Public Security Ministry]

[Text] Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey has just announced the establishment of an air bridge between Cuba and Costa Rica for the purpose of obtaining the release of 138 political prisoners in Cuba. Among them is Huber Matos. The public security minister has just announced that the Costa Rican Government has issued instructions to the Havana consulate in Spain to approve and process the 138 visas of these Cuban prisoners. President Rodrigo Carazo was the one who decided to grant them visas. Jorge Alvarez, director of immigration and foreign citizens, today sent the telegram with the list of the 138 persons who will be released shortly.

The minister said that Costa Rica has the moral and solidary obligation to establish this bridge. Minister Echeverria Brealey announced that the government is even willing to send a plane to Cuba when the authorization for departure is granted to these political prisoners. For its part, Cuba has said that the political prisoners are all [words indistinct] 138.

Huber Matos Jr, one of the persons who worked for the release of these persons, said that there are approximately 3,000 prisoners in Cuba. Huber Matos, 60, has been in prison for 20 years. He is being held at a jail called El Combinado del Este, near Havana, Cuba.

PROTEST LODGED WITH OAS OVER AIRSPACE VIOLATION, SHOOTING

PA241956 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Security Vice Minister Enrique Montealegre has reported that Costa Rica has already lodged a strong protest with the OAS commission currently in Costa Rica over the violation of its airspace. It also protested the shot fired by a Nicaraguan National Guardsman which endangered the life of a small Costa Rican girl. The protest was lodged through the Foreign Ministry.

The OAS observers are now accompanying Luis Guido Martinez, father of Yolanda Guido Obando, the Costa Rican girl who was shot yesterday near the border. She is 12 years old and studies at the school in La Cruz.

She and her family took refuge at La Cruz in September. Her mother, Nelly Obando, is a Nicaraguan and so is her father, Luis. However, all of their children are Costa Rican, our correspondent said.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DAMAGED BY FIRE; INVESTIGATION ORDERED

PA241350 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The Foreign Ministry almost burned down last night. The Legal Department, archives and press offices were damaged. The cause of the fire and the amount of damage are still unknown. Vice President Jose Miguel Alfaro went to the scene to assess the damage. This station reported on the fire at 2100 last night when it started.

Colonel Escalante told Radio Reloj that the fire was controlled rapidly by the Central and Barrio Lujan units. The Legal Department, archives and press office were most affected by the fire, but Vice President Jose Miguel Alfaro said no documents were burned in the Legal Department, only office papers.

The fire started mysteriously. No documents in the Legal Department were burned. In the Archive Department, there are some documents of great historic importance, but they did not suffer much damage thanks to the firemen. Vice President Alfaro said he ordered a careful investigation into the causes of this fire which almost destroyed the Foreign Ministry last night. More details will be provided later today.

PRIVATE NEWS MEDIA OPPOSE STATE RADIO-TV SYSTEM

PA250111 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2346 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The National Chamber of Collective Communications Media [Camara Nacional de Medios de Comunicacion Colectiva--CANAMECC] has announced it will wage a hard struggle against government plans to create various state communications media under the name of the "National Radio and Television System."

According to the private businessmen, they would be confronted with unfair competition as a result of the operation of the new autonomous entity. The CANAMECC members indicated that the national system [words indistinct] would have full authority to create however many organs (?it desired). It would also be assigned a set portion of official propaganda as well as allocations from the government's budget and would be exempted from payment of taxes. All of these measures are considered unfair competition since the private media do not have such advantages.

CANAMECC President Manuel Fernandez Boschini said that the chamber "is not only concerned but deeply alarmed." He announced that the CANAMECC will not adopt a position of negotiating because the project will not be accepted even as a proposal. [Words indistinct] National Radio and Television System, a television station, a radio station and a bimonthly publication.

Fernandez Boschini said that the bill being discussed by the Legislative Assembly is unacceptable because it contains provisions that "are extremely dangerous to the democratic system and to freedom of press and information."

BRIEFS

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM--The Costa Rican Tourism Institute has earmarked 10 million colones for a program to promote local tourism in Costa Rica. The program involves the installation of facilities and construction of roads in six areas of the country. [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 15 Jan 79 p 10-A PA]

EL SALVADOR

FAPU SAYS RAID VICTIMS ARE NOT MILITANTS

PA241329 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0333 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 23 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The United Popular Action Front (FAPU) denied here today that the minors and adults arrested Saturday in San Antonio Abad, located 5 km from downtown San Salvador, are members of that organization, as the authorities claim.

In a communique submitted this afternoon to the various social communications media, the FAPU notes that among those arrested, there is only one who had expressed sympathy for the front and had already been initiated in his tasks as a "reader of the Salvadoran press," but had not yet reached the status of a militant of the organization.

Several minors who had been turned over to the juvenile courts were released today. The 20 adults turned over to the first penal court have denied their involvement in subversive activities and claim instead that they were at that locale participating in a spiritual retreat with the full knowledge of all local residents.

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT LUCAS GARCIA EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR SOMOZA

PA242338 Paris AFP in Spanish 2327 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Jan (AFP)--Guatemalan President Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia has expressed support for Anastasio Somoza's administration and his continuity in the Nicaraguan presidency, a local paper has reported. The newspaper indicated that Romeo Lucas Garcia said that Somoza should remain in office for the term established in the constitution because the Nicaraguans do not desire or want to resort to violence.

BRIEFS

NEW COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR--New Colombian Ambassador Dr Edgar Vives Campo yesterday presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 19 Jan 79 p 4 PA]

HONDURAS

YUGOSLAV DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS ON EXPANDING TRADE

PA241653 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1520 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--An official Yugoslav delegation arrived in Tegucigalpa last night to explore possibilities of expanding trade with Honduras. The 17-member delegation is led by Dusan Anakioski, a high-ranking Yugoslav Foreign Trade Ministry official.

"We have good reports on Honduras and we want to invest a large amount of capital in this Central American nation, with which we already have a large amount of trade," Anakioski explained.

The Yugoslav delegation will stay in Honduras for 48 hours to meet officially with representatives of the trade, banking and industrial sectors and with government officials connected with these sectors. The delegation has already visited Mexico and Guatemala and plans to visit Santo Domingo, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

BRIEFS

CHAGAS DISEASE OUTBREAK--Comayagua, Honduras, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--According to official reports, 35 persons have already contracted the incurable "Chagas disease" in this department in central Honduras. The health authorities today asked the population to help control the spread of the illness. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1657 GMT 24 Jan PA]

NICARAGUA

GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONFERS WITH SOMOZA

PA250206 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0030 GMT 25 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Rafael Castillo Valdez, Guatemalan foreign affairs minister, paid a visit this afternoon to President Anastasio Somoza Debayle at his office in the presidential palace. They talked about different matters related to Central America and the Common Market.

Castillo Valdez was interviewed by an Estacion X reporter whom he told that he was pleased to have talked to President Somoza. He also told the reporter that his government rejects any type of meddling in the internal affairs of other countries.

Castillo Valdez is leaving tomorrow for Costa Rica and, the day after tomorrow, he will be in El Salvador, where he is scheduled to talk to President Romero of El Salvador. He already talked to the Honduran head of state yesterday.

UNITED PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT LAUNCHES ANTIREPRESSION DRIVE

PA241909 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1615 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The United People's Movement (MPU), which includes 14 leftwing organizations, has launched a campaign called the "national patriotic drive against repression." In a communique released today, the MPU charges that the regime's repressive activities have intensified in cities such as Masaya, Matagalpa, Leon, Chinandega, Jinotepe and Managua, as well as in the country's rural areas.

According to the MPU, each time the people go out into the streets to express their opposition to Somoza they are repressed. This leads to the arrest of persons who are later reported killed in combat or simply missing without any civilian or military authority investigating the facts.

The MPU also comments on the existence of the self-styled "People's Army," a radical rightwing group that has claimed credit for the attack on 9 January on labor leader Luis Medrano Flores, secretary general of the Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions. The MPU affirms that the existence of such a clandestine rightwing organization entails a serious responsibility for the civilian and military authorities who in due time will have to respond to justice and the people's wrath.

POPE ASKED TO INTERVENE IN NICARAGUAN 'BLOODBATH'

PA240248 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 23 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Pope John Paul II today was asked to intervene to stop the bloodbath currently taking place in Nicaragua. The Vatican was asked to appoint a special commission to confirm the hundreds of crimes committed against defenseless people.

The request was made by the Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Committee in a message to the people on behalf of persons who have lost relatives as a result of the wave of violence in the country.

In view of the large number of crimes, the Committee . asked the Vatican to urgently appoint a commission.

The Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Committee has made a similar request to the International Committee of Jurists, headquartered in Switzerland. A copy of the request was sent to the Inter-American Human Rights Committee and a UN committee which works for respect of human rights.

Meanwhile, the "second meeting of relatives of the victims of repression" in Nicaragua was held at the headquarters of the human rights committee. It was attended by persons dressed in mourning clothes. The presence of a U.S. Embassy official was evident among the persons who yesterday listened to the dramatic accounts of persons who have lost their relatives in the country's wave of violence.

FSLN INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE LEADER SPADAFORA WOUNDED

PA250314 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1621 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Dr Hugo Spadafora, former Panamanian health vice minister and chief of the international brigade that joined the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), has reportedly been wounded and is in a guerrilla hospital.

The local newspaper LA PRENSA reported this today, giving as its source members of the FSLN contacted in Costa Rica.

Spadafora was reportedly wounded as he was operating a rocket launcher in a Sandinist camp located in an unspecified area of Nicaragua, the newspaper reported.

According to LA PRENSA, the accident occurred last week and the guerrilla doctor was immediately hospitalized at a guerrilla hospital outside the combat zone.

FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA OPENS OFFICIAL TALKS IN GDR

FL241544 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1440 GMT 24 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today began official talks with his GDR counterpart Oskar Fischer. Malmierca and Fischer held the first meeting at the headquarters of the GDR Foreign Ministry, located at the main thoroughfare Under dev Linden.

Shortly before the meeting, the delegation headed by Malmierca laid a floral wreath at the memorial to the victims of fascism and militarism located near the GDR Foreign Ministry. The Cuban delegation was accompanied to the memorial ceremony by General Major Karl Heinz Drews, chief of the East Berlin command, and GDR Ambassador to Cuba Heinz Langer.

Further Reportage

For East Berlin ADN International Service coverage of Foreign Minister Malmierca's visit to the GDR, see the 25 January and subsequent issues of the GDR section of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN SIGNED IN MADRID

FL241123 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jan 79 FL

[Text] In Madrid, at the conclusion of bilateral negotiations, Spain and Cuba have signed a new trade agreement with a duration of 5 years. The agreement supersedes one signed in Havana on 16 December 1974, which was later extended twice, once in 1977 and again in 1978, the second time for a period of 1 month. Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrizas and his Spanish counterpart, Carlos Boustero, signed the documents in the presence of several official personalities. The Cuban vice minister estimated that trade between the two countries will amount to 1 billion dollars during the 5-year duration of the agreement. Beginning in 1981, in accordance with the adopted scheme, all trade operations between Spain and Cuba will be conducted in outright convertible currency.

CULTURE MINISTER HART ATTENDS KREMLIN RECEPTION

FL250131 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo and our country's minister of culture, today attended the reception held in the Kremlin for the participants of the Cuban culture event in the USSR. Also attending the reception was Petr Demichev, candidate member of CPSU Central Committee Politburo and minister of culture. The participants in the [Cuban] culture event today visited the Lenin museum and laid a floral wreath at the base of the tomb of the unknown soldier in the Kremlin wall.

DAYS OF CUBAN CULTURE IN BULGARIA TO BE HELD SOON

FL241401 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1323 GMT 24 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The upcoming celebration of the days of Cuban culture in Bulgaria will constitute a brilliant climax to the numerous activities conducted in that European country on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution's triumph. The cultural event will take place from 5 to 12 February with the participation of more than 300 artists from ballet, theater, film, artwork and popular, folkloric and choral music as well as other forms of art.

With the ceremony to innaugurate the days of Cuban culture, to be held at the most important Bulgarian cultural center, the Ivan Vassof National Theater, an extensive program of activities will begin in Sofia and several cities in the interior of the country, which includes a performance by Cuban prima ballerina Alicia Alonso and the national ballet at the Opera and Ballet National Academic Theater on 12 February, closing the event.

RODRIGUEZ CHAIRS EVENT MARKING CEMA ANNIVERSARY

FL241133 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night presided at the main event with which Cuba commemorated the 30th anniversary of the creation of CEMA.

Hector Rodriguez Llompart, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, made a speech in which he noted the fundamental characteristics of the organization created on 23 January 1949 by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. He stated that CEMA was formed to step up the creation of a new economic system once cooperation had been initiated between socialist countries having an economy seriously affected by the war. He added that presently 10 countries from Europe, Asia and Latin America are members of CEMA, whose main function is to raise the level of the economy of those nations and the standard of living of their peoples.

HAVANA RADIO VIEWS CARTER'S STATE OF UNION MESSAGE

FL241217 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jan 79 FL

[Text] North American President James Carter has reaffirmed his decision to increase military expenses to 125.8 billion dollars while social and educational programs are substantially reduced. In his message to Congress, Carter pointed out: We must maintain our nuclear arms capability and give our aid to the modernization and outfitting of our NATO allies' armies, as well as our own forces in Europe.

In his speech, which was carried to the nation by a television network, Carter referred to the ongoing negotiations with the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic arms. In respect to that, he arrogantly said: I will not sign any agreement unless our deterrent power continues to be overwhelming.

HAVANA REPORTS RAMSEY CLARK STATEMENTS ON KHOMEINI MEETING

FL241231 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 24 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark stated in a press conference held at the United Nations that the Iranian Army represents the principal danger in the current Iranian situation. Clark recognized that the majority of the Iranian people support the opposition's religious leader, the Ayotollah Khomeini, and that the government of Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, a regime doomed to failure, is just a facade without internal support, despite the aid it receives from the United States.

The former U.S. attorney general, who headed a group of personalities that recently visited Iran, affirmed that the situation of that country on the Arabian Peninsula is extremely tense, that the government has no authority and that the only thing sustaining the army is the hope of attempting a military coup.

PRESIDENT SUPPORTS NATIONAL, FOREIGN INVESTMENT

FL231633 Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The president of the republic last night asserted that his government encourages and supports private investment, national as well as foreign. Silvestre Antonio Guzman Fernandez maintained that foreign investment is essential for our economic development and to attain the transfer of technology which our developing country requires so much.

In his address to the nation over a radio and television network, President Guzman Fernandez said that government investment must be complementary. The chief of state added that foreign investment is particularly necessary in the agroindustrial sector, in the industry aimed at exploitation of mining, and in consumption.

NEW LEFTWING POLITICAL ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED

PA212306 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0152 GMT 21 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 20 Jan (EFE)--It was learned today, Saturday, that a new political organization has been established. It defines itself as Marxist-Leninist and has taken the name "Movement of the Revolutionary Left" [Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria] (MIR). According to the proclamation on the establishment of the MIR, which is headed by Fernando Lantiagua and Enrique Cabrera Vasquez--also known as "El Mellizo"--it will firmly struggle to attain a new unity of the entire revolutionary movement.

According to the new group, it is being joined by another group which, it says, calls itself the "Armed Forces for National Liberation" [Fuerzas Armadas de la Liberacion Nacional] (FALN) and which no one in the country knew about until today. The MIR's strategy is to construct socialism and communism by deepening the class struggle.

As conscientious revolutionaries, the men of the MIR will make use of the political freedoms to make advances toward the goal of forging a solid movement to prepare the people for national sovereignty, socialism and communism, part of the MIR proclamation states.

SANDINIST GAZETTE BEGINS PUBLICATION

PA211534 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0944 GMT 21 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 21 Jan (EFE)--The "Sandinist Committee in the Dominican Republic" yesterday began publication of the "SANDINIST GAZETTE," stating that it will be a biweekly publication and the committee's official organ.

The "committee" claims to be an affiliate of the "Sandinist National Liberation Front" (FSLN) which is struggling to free Nicaragua from the dictatorship of President Anastasio Somoza.

In its editorial, which gives special recognition to the Dominican people and the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party, the paper says that the publication will keep the Dominican people informed about current events in Nicaragua and the struggle the FSLN is waging for the liberation of the Nicaraguan people.

DOMINICA

PRIME MINISTER JOHN MAKES POLICY STATEMENT

FL221445 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Jan 79 p 9 FL

[Peter Richards report]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 16 Jan (CANA)--Prime Minister Patrick John of newly-independent Dominica yesterday made his first policy statement here, declaring the island's commitment to the Third World cause and to pursuing joint ventures for the island's economic development.

Mr. John, who spoke in a 45-minute broadcast shortly before leaving at the head of a high-powered government mission to Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, also announced plans for an increase in public service salaries.

He said that his government would uphold the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and supported the aspirations of the black Africans for full and early liberation.

"We denounce the system of apartheid in any of its forms and manifestations as an ugly inhuman thing on the conscience of all who support the practice of apartheid," he said.

Dominica, under the Labour Party government, will pursue a policy of non-alignment and will maintain cordial relationship with all countries that will "respect the full sovereignty and territorial integrity of Dominica", Patrick John said.

The prime minister added that Dominica would support the development of Third World countries, and all movements truly aimed at achieving regional integration.

Warning

However he warned that contrary to reports in the media, Dominica had no plans "for any military, verbal or otherwise actions against any country in the world."

"I must certainly emphasise certainly not Barbados," he said.

This was taken as a reference to press reports last December that a 350-man mercenary army was planning a seaborne invasion of Barbados, using Dominica as a base.

Prime Minister John said that he expected to see considerable improvements in Dominica's communications facilities, including extension of the deep water harbour and construction of an international airport.

Efforts will be made during the year to revive the sugar cane industry here and the agricultural sector will be diversified with "active steps" taken to deal with major problems facing the vital banana industry.

The Dominica banana industry is now combating an outbreak of leaf spot disease which has already begun affecting holdings here, and Mr. John said "arrangements are being made to compensate farmers whose banana holdings would need to be up-rooted because of the disease."

Initiatives

Efforts will also be made towards "more practicable approach to education," and new initiatives made into higher education as well as greater use of the technical schools.

Mr John promised the police and public service a pay increase retroactive to January this year, but he gave no figures.

On the question of industry, Mr John said that his government would encourage more local enterprises to be set up in Dominica and would attract foreign capital by means of joint venture operations.

The Domonica leader warned local trade unions that "the nation cannot afford general strikes whether called for political purposes or otherwise.

"In a strike the community suffers and funds and resources that would have been used for the development of the country are destroyed and lost," John said.

He said that to ensure a better industrial climate here in 1979, the Minister of Industrial Affairs Randolph Bannis and External Affairs Minister Leo Austin planned to meet with the unions and iron out problems and discuss plans for the expeditious settlement of disputes.

Mr John left Dominica this morning for Caracas and Port-of-Spain accompanied by Director of Public Information Dennis Joseph; Kenrick Butler, permanent secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs; Leo Austin, attorney-general; and Vic Riviere, finance and economic development minister.

An official government statement simply said the team would hold discussions with top officials in the two oil-rich countries, but gave no details.

JAMAICA

CARICOM COUNTRIES MEETING TO OPEN IN KINGSTON

FL231617 Kingston Domestic Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 23 Jan 79 FL

[Text] A series of meetings involving officials from the CARICOM [Caribbean Common Market] secretariat and the 12 state groupings to work out the agenda for tomorrow's conference of CARICOM foreign ministers is to convene today at the Kingston Inter-continental Hotel. Jamaica is hosting the conference and so far 11 foreign ministers are already on the island, many having stayed over after last week's signing ceremony for the CARICOM (?preferential) pact.

Guyana's foreign minister is the only minister not to arrive as yet. He is expected on the island today.

BURNHAM ADDRESSES AMBASSADORS, ENVOYS

FL221650 Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Jan 79 pp 1, 2 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Forbes Burnham yesterday declared open Guyana's heads of mission annual conference with an hour-long address to ambassadors and other envoys to some 13 countries.

The conference, at the Guyana Sugar Corporation's management training centre at Ogle, is scheduled to last for one week, unlike last year's sessions which were held in Georgetown and ran for nearly two weeks. It will also take the form of a live-in exercise.

The conference will have an overview of Guyana's foreign policy over the past year and will discuss developments particularly in the various countries to which Guyana's diplomats are accredited, as well as in Guyana itself.

Following the opening session, the diplomats went into business sessions with Foreign Affairs Minister Cde. Rashleigh Jackson, who has been head of the country's mission to the United Nations for some time, presiding for the first time. Four sessions are scheduled daily, ending around 6.30 PM. It is likely that some sessions will go well into the night so as to complete the discussions in the specified period of a week.

Heads of missions attending are Ambassadors John Carter (People's Republic of China), Rudy Insanally (Belgium), Lawrence Mann (USA), Frank Campbell (Cuba), Lionel Samuels (Brazil), Elvin McDavid (USSR) and Rudolph Collins (Venezuela), High Commissioner Fred Talbot (Jamaica), Robert Moore (Canada), Cedric Grant (U.K.), Edward Luckhoo (India), and Cedric Joseph (Zambia), Charge d'Affaires Noel Sinclair (United Nations) and Philip Chan (Surinam). Also from overseas will be political counsellors Christopher Jones (Washington) and Doris Collins (U.K.), Consul General Yvonne Benn (New York), Consul E.V. Persaud (Toronto) and Senior Foreign Service officer Peter Halder (Washington).

FURTHER ON JAGAN'S 'MOSCOW PUPPET' STATEMENT

FL191730 Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 14 Jan 79 p 6 FL

[Text] Opposition leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan has written Guyana national newspapers contending that a remark he made in parliament recently about not being ashamed of being "a Moscow puppet" was reported out of context by the DAILY CHRONICLE.

The SUNDAY CHRONICLE publishes Dr. Jagan's letter and a report on his remarks which were made during his 45-minute contribution to the January 8 debate on the Local Authorities (Postponement of Elections) Bill 1978.

At one stage of his contribution to the debate, Dr. Jagan raised the Jonestown issue and said according to an extract from HANSARD, while "Guyana did not make the international headlines at the referendum time" it did so in the wake of the Jonestown disaster and the international press was now dealing "with the economic and social realities of Guyana."

However, at this stage, the speaker, Cde. Sase Narain intervened and asked Dr. Jagan of what relevance to the bill was his remarks.

Dr. Jagan replied: "I am showing Cde. Speaker that they are carrying this country down by their undemocratic methods and at the same time they are opening this country to an imperialist type culture. [paragraph continues]

"All we have to do is to listen to the radio and look at the CHRONICLE and see what is being printed."

People's National Congress [PNC] back-bencher Cde. Kit Nascimento interrupted: "The same papers called you a Moscow puppet," he told Dr. Jagan.

Dr. Jagan responded: "Called me a Moscow puppet? I am glad for that! I am glad for that! I am not ashamed of being a Moscow puppet--if you want to put it that way (laughter from the government benches) because Moscow stands for socialism; it stands for democracy; it stands for proletarian internationalism; it helps liberation movements--not like you have puppets of C.I.A.; puppets of imperialism!"

Later, Economic Development and Co-operatives Minister Cde. Desmond Hoyte, who wound up the debate from the government benches, in a reference to Dr. Jagan's statement declared: "The PNC is not a puppet of anybody."

Jagan's Letter to Paper

FL191735 Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 14 Jan 79 p 6 FL

[Text] Sir,

Your headline, "I'm a Moscow Puppet--Jagan," in your issue of January 9, 1979, certainly does not convey what really transpired in the National Assembly.

As you pointed out, a back-bencher heckled me, stating that the international press claimed that I was a "Moscow puppet." This was done when I was making the observation that lack of democracy would not solve the bottleneck of production and our grave economic headaches, that the attempt to solve the economic crisis through the I.M.F. was making Guyana into a client state of imperialism and puppets of the CIA.

The gist of my response can be summed up as follows: OK, I'm a Moscow puppet: That is an old line which doesn't bother me. I support the Soviet Union because "Moscow stands for socialism, democracy and proletarian internationalism."

Since the dictionary meaning of puppet is "person whose acts are controlled by orders," let me say that neither the PPP [People's Progressive Party] nor I take orders from Moscow; indeed, from our years of contact with the Communist Party (CPSU) of the Soviet Union, we can state categorically that at no time has any attempt been made to give us orders. In fact, there is no directing centre in the world communist movement.

In this connection, note some of the erroneous and contradictory statements. At first it was stated that the PPP took orders from abroad to boycott the referendum on July 10, 1978. The referendum proposals included the establishment of a Constituent Assembly.

After the referendum, it was said that the PPP was told to participate in the National Assembly and the Constituent Assembly. After my return from a trip to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Ethiopia, a statement was made that we had been ordered to boycott the Constituent Assembly.

In view of the wrong impression created, I would be grateful if you would publish this letter.

Yours truly, Cheddi Jagan, leader of opposition